



# WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS

State of Wisconsin  
Department of Workforce Development  
Office of Economic Advisors

## FOR SOUTHWEST WISCONSIN COUNTIES

GRANT, GREEN, IOWA, LAFAYETTE, RICHLAND, & ROCK

May 2004

### Seasonal Workers return to jobs - Unemployment rates decline

The April employment picture in Southwest Wisconsin equates to workers returning to jobs and unemployment starting its yearly seasonal decline. Following normal trends the number of unemployed declined in all six counties in the region and unemployment rates followed. The unemployment rate for Southwest Wisconsin dropped from 6.8 percent in March to 5.2 percent in April and is down from 6.8 percent one year earlier.

The number of jobholders in Southwest Wisconsin increased from 145,100 in March to 145,400 April. The increase in employment

The seasonally unemployment rate for the Janesville-Beloit metropolitan statistical area (MSA) declined from 6.6 percent in March to 6.3 percent in April and is down one percent from April 2003.

Seasonally adjusted, the Wisconsin unemployment rate in April was 4.6 percent and the national rate was 5.6 percent, down 1.1 percent and 0.4 percentage points from a year ago, respectfully.

In the Southwest region, as in most counties and regions in the state, the reduction in the number of unemployed was greater

#### National Reports

Nationally, utilities across the United States have sent cancellation notices to thousands of homeowners who are behind on their electricity and natural gas heating bills. The number of shut-offs is on course to be much higher than last year in many parts of the country. Moratoriums that bar utilities from cutting off heating mid-winter in many states are over in April. Expensive energy costs, combined with a fragile economy that left people unemployed or underemployed during the winter, led more households to go delinquent and not pay their heating bills this year than in prior years, according to reports from the utilities.

Wholesale prices shot up by 0.7 percent in April, the largest increase in a year, propelled by higher gasoline costs and the biggest jump in dairy product prices since 1946. This increase followed a 0.5 percent rise in March and a 0.1 percent gain in February. April prices for finished goods other than foods and energy went up 0.2 percent, the same rate of increase as in the previous month. At the earlier stages of processing, the intermediate goods index climbed 1.4 percent, compared with a 0.7 percent gain in March.

Separately, the Commerce Department reported that sales at the nation's retailers dropped by 0.5 percent in April, following a strong 2 percent rise in March. April's performance was bogged down by sharp drop in automobile sales.

Labor Force Estimates (Seasonally Adjusted)			
	Janesville-Beloit MSA	Wisconsin (000s)	United States (000s)
<b>Current month: April 2004</b>			
Civilian Labor Force	78,700	3,101.7	146,741
Employment	73,700	2,957.8	138,576
Unemployment	5,000	143.9	8,164
Unemployment rate	6.3%	4.6%	5.6%
<b>Change from one month ago</b>			
Civilian Labor Force	-1,800	-8.2	91
Employment	-1,500	6.7	278
Unemployment	-300	-15.0	(188)
Unemployment rate	-0.3%	-0.5%	-0.1%
<b>Change from one year ago</b>			
Civilian Labor Force	200	30.1	364
Employment	900	62.5	998
Unemployment	-700	-32.5	(635)
Unemployment rate	-1.0%	-1.1%	-0.4%

Note: All estimates are preliminary and based on place of residence.

helped reduce the regional unemployment rate. Unadjusted unemployment rates declined in all six counties in the Southwest region as they did in all but two counties statewide.

The State of Wisconsin unadjusted unemployment rate dropped from 6.2 to 5.1 percent in April while the national unadjusted rate declined from 6.0 to 5.4 percent.

than the increase in employed. In the Southwest region the number of unemployed declined by 2,520 but employment increased only 320. It is fairly typical for the labor force to decline in April but the reduction this year is much larger than normal. The seasonal changes in the labor force reflect not only the number of available jobs but also the perceived potential for work.

## Southwestern Wisconsin Workforce Development Area

April 2004	Grant	Green	Iowa	Lafayette	Richland	Rock	Region	Non MSA's *	Wisconsin
<b>Civilian Labor Force**</b>	26,015	17,907	14,654	7,456	9,098	78,264	153,394	75,130	3,082,944
Employed	24,938	17,014	14,151	7,094	8,607	73,596	145,400	71,804	2,925,248
Unemployed	1,077	893	503	362	491	4,668	7,994	3,326	157,696
Unemployment rate(%)	4.1	5.0	3.4	4.9	5.4	6.0	5.2	4.4	5.1
<b>Total Nonfarm (NFWS) ***</b>	19,600	14,100	11,400	3,580	6,200	66,600	121,500	54,900	2,799,700
Total Private	14,200	12,000	10,000	2,440	5,000	57,900	101,600	43,700	2,378,700
Goods Producing	3,300	3,500	1,100	550	1,900	17,400	27,800	10,400	627,600
Service Producing	16,300	10,600	10,400	3,030	4,300	49,200	93,700	44,500	2,172,100
Constr., Mining & Nat.Rsrcs	600	500	500	150	200	2,800	4,600	1,800	125,000
Manufacturing	2,800	3,000	600	400	1,800	14,600	23,100	8,500	502,600
Trade	2,600	3,000	6,200	680	1,100	12,500	26,100	13,600	434,900
Transportation & Utilities	400	300	300	180	100	2,500	3,800	1,300	319,000
Financial Activities	1,000	400	200	210	200	2,100	4,100	2,000	158,600
Education and Health Services	2,400	2,100	1,000	290	800	8,900	15,400	6,500	375,000
Leisure & Hospitality	1,700	1,100	700	210	500	5,900	10,100	4,200	243,200
Info., Prof. & Bus. Svcs, Other Svcs	2,700	1,600	500	320	400	8,600	14,200	5,600	434,100
Total Government	5,370	2,030	1,470	1,140	1,220	8,700	19,900	11,200	421,000
Federal	170	90	100	70	60	300	800	500	29,200
State	2,360	40	80	30	200	500	3,200	2,700	101,500
Local	2,840	1,900	1,300	1,040	960	7,900	15,900	8,000	290,300
<b>Change from one month ago</b>	<b>March 2004</b>								
<b>Civilian Labor Force**</b>	-250	-80	-200	-70	30	-1,600	-2,200	-600	-9,400
Employed	440	200	140	200	140	-800	320	1,100	24,300
Unemployed	-690	-280	-330	-270	-110	-800	-2,520	-1,700	-33,700
Unemployment rate(%)	-2.6	-1.5	-2.2	-3.5	-1.2	-0.9	-1.6	-2.2	-1.1
<b>Total Nonfarm (NFWS)***</b>	320	150	90	70	80	-400	300	700	39,600
<b>Percent change NFWS last month</b>	1.6%	1.1%	0.8%	2.1%	1.3%	-0.6%	0.3%	1.3%	1.4%
Total Private	200	100	100	50	100	-400	200	600	37,000
Goods Producing	100	100	100	30	0	-400	-100	300	12,100
Service Producing	200	0	0	50	0	0	400	400	27,500
Constr., Mining & Nat.Rsrcs	70	70	50	20	20	0	200	200	8,400
Manufacturing	30	50	0	10	10	-400	-300	100	3,700
Trade	0	10	-120	0	20	-300	-400	-100	5,400
Transportation & Utilities	20	0	10	10	0	0	0	0	3,900
Financial Activities	0	-10	0	0	0	0	0	0	-500
Education and Health Services	10	-10	20	0	0	0	0	0	800
Leisure & Hospitality	70	50	90	10	20	100	300	200	8,500
Info., Prof. & Bus. Svcs, Other Svcs	20	-10	20	20	0	200	200	0	10,100
Total Government	90	10	30	20	10	0	200	200	2,600
Federal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
State	50	0	10	0	-10	0	100	100	1,600
Local	40	10	20	20	10	0	100	100	1,000
<b>Change from one year ago</b>	<b>April 2003</b>								
<b>Civilian Labor Force*</b>	-170	-40	630	40	130	100	700	600	29,300
Employed	550	340	130	240	230	900	3,100	2,200	61,100
Unemployed	-710	-380	-240	-210	-100	-800	-2,400	-1,600	-31,900
Unemployment rate(%)	-2.7	-2.1	-1.9	-2.8	-1.1	-1.0	-1.6	-2.2	-1.1
<b>Total Nonfarm (NFWS)***</b>	70	20	550	30	40	-100	600	700	38,100
<b>Percent change NFWS last year</b>	0.3%	0.1%	5.0%	0.9%	0.7%	-0.1%	0.5%	1.3%	1.4%
Total Private	200	100	500	40	100	0	900	900	45,700
Goods Producing	-100	-100	-100	-20	0	-800	-1,000	-200	4,100
Service Producing	200	100	600	50	0	700	1,600	900	34,000
Constr., Mining & Nat.Rsrcs	20	20	-10	20	10	0	100	100	5,400
Manufacturing	-130	-80	-50	-30	20	-800	-1,100	-300	-1,300
Trade	-80	70	540	20	-10	500	1,000	500	11,700
Transportation & Utilities	-20	10	-30	-10	0	-100	-200	-100	8,100
Financial Activities	20	0	10	10	0	100	100	0	2,700
Education and Health Services	140	-10	50	20	60	100	400	300	10,700
Leisure & Hospitality	100	30	10	10	10	-100	100	200	7,500
Info., Prof. & Bus. Svcs, Other Svcs	110	30	20	0	10	300	500	200	9,000
Total Government	-90	-40	0	-10	-50	-100	-300	-200	-7,600
Federal	0	0	-10	0	0	0	0	0	-500
State	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-4,100
Local	-90	-40	0	-10	-40	-100	-300	-200	-3,000

\* Five counties, excluding Rock County \*\* Includes participants residing in area. \*\*\* Includes employment with employers located in area. Estimates are NOT seasonally adjusted. Current month estimates are preliminary. Totals may not add due to rounding. Calculations based on unrounded numbers. NFWS data is benchmarked to 3/2002